

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the indicated paragraphs of U.S. Pat. Appln. Publ. No. 2007/0185528A1 with the following replacement paragraphs:

[0034] In the first exemplary embodiment illustrated in ~~[[FIG. 1]]~~ FIG. 2, when thumb pressure is applied to the press pin 17 in the direction of the longitudinal axis into the interior of the housing, as symbolized by the arrow 20, and corresponds to a first actuation, the spreader device 16 opens a gripper tool 12 that is slotted on the tip, which can be in the form of a small silicon ball, for example. This gripper tool 12 is positioned over the tick and is pressed against the skin so that the tick is located in the opening of the gripper tool 12. As the thumb pressure on the press pin 17 is removed, i.e. as the press pin moves opposite to the direction of the arrow 20 which corresponds to a second actuation, the spreader device 16 moves backward and the gripper tool 12 encloses the tick in the cavity 21. The further removal of thumb pressure from the press pin effects a rotation of the gripper tool 12 by means of the rotation device 18, as a result of which the tick is detached from the skin and picked up by the gripper tool 12. This gripper tool 12 is detachably fastened to the device 10 and can be removed so that, if necessary, it can be sent along with the tick to a laboratory for testing. The use of a disposable gripper tool 12 is preferred for sanitary reasons.

[0035] FIG. 3 shows a second embodiment of the tick remover 30 claimed by the invention in a schematic illustration, whereby FIG. 3 shows the tick remover in four positions, ~~I, II, III and IV~~ A, B, C and D.

[0037] In position ~~[[I]]~~ 3A of the tick remover 30 in ~~FIG. 1~~ ~~[[Translator's Note: sic—probably should be FIG. 3]]~~ FIG. 3, which corresponds to the idle position, the gripper tool 12 is closed and completely encloses an interior cavity 21, the size of which is sufficient to securely hold the parasite. The stud 31 of the spreader device 16 is also in the idle position, and is located in a recess between appropriately shaped spreader jaws 32 for the spreading of the gripper tool 12.

[0038] Position ~~[[III]]~~ 3B in ~~FIG. 1~~ ~~[[Translator's Note: sic—probably should be FIG. 3]]~~ FIG. 3

shows the tick remover 30 during or after a first actuation of the press pin, i.e. the press pin 17 is pressed inward along the longitudinal axis of the tick remover 30. As a result of the movement of the press pin 17 downward in FIG. 3, the transverse stud 31 of the spreader device 16 is also pushed downward by a driver 34 because of its guidance in a groove, which causes a spreading, i.e. opening, of the gripper tool 12 by the action of the stud 31 on the spreader jaws 32.

[0039] In position [[III]] 3C of the tick remover 30, the pressure on the press pin is maintained in the same direction as in position [[II]] 3B. This position can be considered as the terminal position of a first actuation or as the beginning of a second actuation, because in the second embodiment of the tick remover 30, there can be a seamless transition between the first and second actuations. On account of its guidance in a groove, the stud 31 is now rotated by 90.degree. around its longitudinal axis, whereupon, as a result of the configuration of the stud, i.e. the presence of the flattened portion shown in the drawing, the gripper 12 closes under its own spring force. Because the upper end of the stud 31 is also flattened, the stud now lies in the opening of the driver 34 of the press pin 17 and can therefore not be pushed any farther, i.e. the stud 31 has reached its terminal position.

[0040] Position [[IV]] 3D of the tick remover 30 is reached by the further actuation of the press pin 17 in the same direction along the longitudinal axis of the device 30. Further actuation in the same direction as the first actuation effects a twisting or rotation of the closed gripper tool 17, illustrated symbolically by the arrow 35. The rotation of the gripper tool 17 is effected by a rotation device 18 which is formed by two nubs 33 that are located on the outside of the press pin 17, and which are now engaged in the internal thread of the housing 11. As pressure continues to be exerted on the press pin 17, the housing 11 on which the gripper 12 is fastened is therefore rotated.